

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 25-28 and 30-42 without prejudice to applicant's right to continue prosecution of the subject matter of the claims, drawn to separately patentable inventions, in separate applications.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A carrier for use in a coating process, the carrier being generally elongate and having a plurality of support members which, in use, support articles during the coating process, the support members each having an opening leading to a recess, the recess extending from the opening in a direction generally parallel to a longitudinal axis of the carrier.
2. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 1 wherein the carrier lies within a plane, and wherein the support members lie in, or close to, the plane.
3. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 2 which is generally planar.
4. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 3 formed from sheet or sheet-like material.
5. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 4 formed from sheet metal.
6. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 5 wherein the support members are formed from sheet or sheet-like material.
7. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 1 wherein the support members are integral with the carrier.
8. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 1 wherein the carrier and support members are formed using a laser cutting operation.
9. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 1 wherein the carrier and support members are formed from a single sheet.
10. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 9 wherein the carrier and support members lie within or close to a single plane.

11. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 1 further comprising a strengthening element to resist bending.
12. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 11 wherein the strengthening element comprises a lip or flange.
13. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 12 wherein the strengthening element comprises a deformed edge part of the carrier.
14. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 11 wherein the strengthening element is generally parallel to the longitudinal axis of the carrier.
15. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 1 further comprising barriers disposed in relation to each of said plurality of support members to hinder removal or disengagement of articles therefrom.
16. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 15 wherein the barriers are provided by connecting limbs of the support members.
17. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 16 wherein the connecting limbs extend away from the carrier at an acute angle to the longitudinal axis.
18. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 17 wherein the connecting limbs are generally in-line with the openings of the support members.
19. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 18 wherein the connecting limb of a support member is located adjacent or close to the opening of a neighboring support member.
20. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 19 wherein the connecting limb is generally elongate and wherein the limb lies generally parallel to the opening.
21. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 20 wherein the connecting limbs extend partly into the openings of neighboring support members.
22. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 21 wherein distal ends of the support members are disposed, when the axis of the carrier is generally horizontal, beneath part of a neighboring connecting limb.
23. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 22 wherein the connecting limbs provide a guide surface for use during engagement or disengagement of articles from the support members.

24. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 23 wherein the carrier and support member are formed from stainless steel sheet.

25.-28. (Canceled).

29. (Original) A rack for use in a coating process, comprising a plurality of carriers and support members substantially in accordance with Claim 1.

30.- 42. (Canceled).